Vater Mission Living

Isaiah 42:10 "Sing unto the Lord a new song, and His praise from the end of the courth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein and the inhabitants thereof . .



News from Bwasa and Milne Bay – June 2011



Our first crop of students of God's Word – BCC April 2011

In 2Ch 29:36 we see an event where God had prepared the hearts of the people and they responded to Him on the call of the king. Revival ensued – suddenly, or by surprise. Well in a small way that has happened to us. We have been fully engaged in the material development plan at Bwasa while waiting for the Lord to reveal when He wanted us to prepare for the teaching aspect of LWM. When I got back from seeing Howard in Brisbane where the issue of my visa was finally resolved, the people told me that a lot of young folk came saying they want to enrol at LWM for teaching. Now we had not prepared to receive students nor were we ready to suddenly accommodate <20 people. Anyway the Sigialus pulled out the stops and we admitted 15 students from different villages here on Duau as well as another 3 from our people. We taught the Basic Concepts Course and authority of God's Word. We also had some practical instruction on engines and machinery. Some of the young men have expressed interest in being involved with timber and boatbuilding work and still others about learning carpentry skills. Suddenly our scope to develop Bwasa as a resource centre is gathering pace and the Word of God prospers too. As yet we do not have sufficient resources in finance or staff to begin full-time instruction and we are still struggling to develop our timber processing operation to produce a functional income.

However to return to February, Colly and I were in Alotau where I was making the trailer at Masurina timber yard. Our equipment and tools were still in the container and the tractor received a going over plus a new coat of paint. All was ready for the barge *Samarai-Murua*, which would be able to offload our things at Bwasa on its way to the Trobriand Islands with a cargo of offcut timber. As soon as the barge arrived, the container, tractor and trailer were duly loaded but the Provincial governor disputed over a charter agreement with the owner and arbitrarily charged me personally K10,000 (£0.25 = K1 appx.) for a seventy mile journey. Interestingly the figure is almost identical with the cargo rate charged to ship the same container



from England to Alotau – halfway round the world! Anyway I have written to the Governor hopeful that he will refund my money and only charge me a reasonable fee for the service (about K1,600 of the K15,000 per day to charter the whole ship). On the right you can see the coast of our area Bwasa on the left. A water tank has been tied up on top of our container. The offcut timber is in the foreground viewed from the bridge of the barge.



I had to make a hurried journey over the mountain again to get to Alotau in time for the Airlines PNG flight leaving from Gurney on Sunday for my last visa flight from PNG. These hikes over the mountain certainly keep me fit but I have yet to find the right footwear which will give ankle support as well as gripping the ground to climb in the mountains and prevent slipping on the weed-covered rocks in the fast-running rivers as well. I always marvel at native feet so perfectly adept at walking these tracks and balancing on narrow trees dropped across creeks while carrying large loads on their heads and shoulders. I stayed for a night as usual at Bara-bara with Allyson and Janet and took a bananaboat to East Cape next morning to climb into a PMV (canvas covered open truck with

bench seats), I like making the trip even if it is tiring because it is so fascinating. Despite all the rush to get to Gurney and meet the flight it was cancelled at the last minute for 'operational reasons', I finally arrived in

Port Moresby on the Monday flight I was collected by Eric and I stayed with Lucky Manoka's family in Barakau. I had been invited to preach at the 'shed' church which is the majority half of a United Church after a split. They are a great bunch of saints at the shed church and after preaching an evangelistic message 36 people received the new birth with about half of these receiving the baptism in the Holy Ghost. Further flight difficulties with Virgin Blue wasted three of days I would have had with Howard; Elise' parents, the Stinsons, kindly put me up for my time there. Howard and Elise are living there in an annex. On the Monday I went to Brisbane to get my visa which would allow me to stay residentially in PNG and I finally got it



after two and a half years of repeatedly flying in and out of the country due to the entry restrictions for foreigners wanting to come to PNG for more than two months. The return flights to PNG went without hitch and when I arrived in Alotau I knuckled down to the business of preparing my 50 year-old tractor for service at Bwasa and give her a coat of paint. Chris and Jeff Abel helped immensely by allowing me to construct a trailer at the Masurina Timber Yard for which I scoured Alotau for axles, wheels and Chris gave me the springs from an old twin-cab ute, which has since done sterling service carrying huge loads of building timber and people. All was set for the return journey to Bwasa when the barge came in. Colleen and I boarded the barge we chucked off at 22.00. We arrived at 15.00 on the following day only to find that the beach was not really suitable and some last minute dispute with some of the young daughters of the landowner complicated as well by the Governor because he had intervened and had loaded the barge personally so we were unable to get the tractor and trailer off before the container. So after unloading the contents of the container the barge had to take off for the Trobriand Islands. A fresh attempt was made later and the things were safely offloaded at Sawaihala while I was in Australia. The Sigialus had constructed a whole wharf to take the container. When the barge arrived they and the forklift on board managed to offload the container with the tractor and trailer inside which was wheeled out by hand. We found that we could not move the container with the tractor and people alone but the mine prospectors have offered to use there tracked excavator to move it for us.



The tractor was put to work straight away in moving logs and hauling firewood for the copra drier. However we have been inundated with heavy rainfall and the roads and tracks are an impassable quagmire until drier weather comes along. Further delay was encountered because the starter spigot retainer spring of one of our new MS880 chainsaw broke and replacing it has been very frustrating because we have to get everything from Moresby. (the replacement took nearly 4 months to get to me) The tiny Stihl chainsaw I bought from Simmonds Saws in England has been a real blessing in carpentry work; initially in building work but it will come into its own especially when we start cutting

I am hauling up a log for boat planking here frames and planks for the sailing cutter.

We managed to borrow a sinking 19ft banana boat and patch it up with epoxy glue and power it with our 8hp Honda outboard, donated by AusAID. We have been able since to access most of Sewetaitai Bay to transport people and occasionally to fish. One advantage of rainy weather is that the fish can't see our lines but only the lures owing to the clouded water from the debouchment of the Sewatupwa and Imwauna rivers into the bay. Oh what woppers we caught! Two trevally and two kingfish (Spanish mackerel). Sorry no photos to the fish story.

Our ever present dilemma is that we desperately need a boat to carry cargo. While I was away the Sigis have been working on a boat which I had thought was only fit for firewood. Under the boatbuilding leadership of Sikken they have proven me doubly wrong and having replaced the



Sikken with Magisubu the 25ft workboat

keel stem and transom already; progress was now well underway to frame her up and cut her floors. So I had to eat humble pie and tell them how wrong my assessment was and then gave them our full support by utilising in the power tools committed to the sailing cutter. The results were excellent. Working together we constructed a steambox to replace an old pipe they were using and we cut the kwila (iroko) ribs. In a three days they had the whole boat framed and now nothing of the original boat remains. Sikken and Terence have been getting used to the equipment and feel that we are building the team ready for cutter which is to follow. This boat had been purchased as a virtual wreck by Matthew Hawale that upon rebuilding would be exclusively for the use of the Bwasa community in order to free up his own boat *Sinali* so he can devote it to trading. Matthew's family on Sariba have a strong connection with Makelon and the Sigialus. The vessel dedicated to service the Mwanimwaniu community between the two rivers. This is helpful for LWM and also for the community children because at the moment in heavy rain the Sewatupwa River floods and crocodiles, sawfish and sharks cross the bar making it dangerous for the children to cross to attend the primary school some 4 miles away in Kelologia. One thing we do need for this boat though is a 35 to 40hp Diesel engine. My immediate thought is to get one from Beta Marine in England but we will need about K30,000 to do this.

As many of you know, we have been working hard at developing a good source of income at Bwasa but this has to be worked in with the boatbuilding program too. On the milling side we have been using the single chainsaw to cut planking timber (*wahamoni*) and then float this the 4 miles to Bwasa across from the Western side of the bay for milling with the LT15 Woodmizer. We found it difficult to cut the boards owing to the short length of the track of the LT15 but with the students we were able to carefully move the log along the frame and so cut some of the full length boards. The Woodmizer is a really well made piece of equipment and looked after properly it will go for years even when some unexpected tasks are given to it like cutting floor sections from timber crooks must have exceeding the designers wildest expectations.



While concentrating on the practical work Colly and I recognised that we needed to adjust to what God has shown us about preparing for the Bible Training Centre as well. Please remember though that we receive no support whatsoever from Churches in England or South Africa either in finance or in books although we pray that God will remedy this regardless of source. We have not developed a curriculum for the training centre and needed time to do this and also to find willing and suitable visiting teachers to join us together with books for course reading and study for the students. The first BCC ended on the 9th April

and it was a great success with seven people being baptized, on the left here Colly and I are baptising Noddi. The students came from different denominations with not a few fears on baptism but after studying the Word



came to the realisation that water baptism can only be done by faith on their own part (cf Acts 8:37 NKJV) it was a precious moment.

We will be including computer skills training for our students with the units supplied to us by Computers for Charity, our old friend Simon Rooksby in Hailsham. I feel sure that CfC would be happy to supply us with a few more if they are available and we can ship them. The whiteboard Simon gave us has proved extremely useful in our teaching as well as serving as a projector board for films when we show them. However we do need a donor to supply a container and shipping for us to bring another load of equipment for us.

Imwauna Falls with Colly and some children



We had been in touch with FIA (Faith In Action)about setting up a hydro-power unit to supply electricity for Bwasa and so obviate the need for the Diesel generator but he recession intervened in the US and action was not forthcoming so if any of you have a solution to this need we would be glad to hear of it. There is a lot of rhetoric on the media about climate change and the need for renewable energy; we are a perfect case in point for a demonstrable program where such investment here would tick all the boxes of donor charities in the environmental sector

Noddy learning to drive the tractor so if any of you know of such or anyone else who would do this for us then please approach them on our behalf and advise Cameron. We will continue to pray for it. You can see the large waterfall at Imwauna in the photo and this could easily supply electricity for us and all the villages adjacent to our area. The water runs at a large volume about 400 feet above us and I think that a 5 or 6" pipe could easily be run down from this water into a turbine which could provide between 50 to 100 kW of electricity. The pipe would then continue into the local creek which



would be scoured by the outflow and clean out the malarial mosquitoes that plague us from time to time.

Our third intake of students have just completed the Basic Concepts Course with great success. They all testified to unexpected changes in their lives as many of them had come with only the possibility of trade and vocational skills training, when they heard that we were teaching God's word and that practical training was something of a future plan it did not faze them. They got stuck in to God's word and surprised even themselves at the changes that God wrought in their lives so Matt 6:33 has come very much alive for them. Of course we are keen to begin training in practical areas and the boatbuilding and computing will be among the first areas, with carpentry to follow if we can maintain a supply of tools from Tools for Self-Reliance of Southampton.



Abi constructing student benches with tools donated to us by Tools for Self Reliance

As I write, Daroa is on Misima working through a number of the villages there with the United Charismatic Mission. I expect a full report from him for the next newsletter. Daroa has a job with Masurina security again who are thankfully flexible to allow him to carry out his ministry.



Colly teaching

Heather left us for Australia but intends to return to PNG again working in Alotau with Victory Ministries under a Pastor Peter who is with the Christian Outreach Centre and so her direct association with us which began in 2007 has come to an end which began in 2007 when she came aboard the mission schooner *Soteria* in Portslade. She found work at Kwato too lonely but we are glad she wants to return to PNG and work in children's ministry with the COC and we wish and pray her well. Some breaking local news is that the airstrip at Sehulea will soon be operational again after 12 years, courtesy of the Imwauna Mine prospectors; and flights can recommence again although MAF have long disappeared from Milne Bay though they are needed now more than ever and could even supplement their

operation by commercially servicing the islands. If actions or inactions were to be believed one could be forgiven for thinking that most Christians have concluded that the missionary era has come to a close, we pray a fresh revelation into Jesus' Body! The mine prospectors are planning to renew a road from the airstrip to Imwauna a distance of about 7NM which should be a great blessing for the whole of Duau.

It has been hard but invigorating work and as Colly and I are preparing to make this year's trip to England we will appreciate the break we are leaving on the 13th June and returning again on the 21st July, so if any of you would like us to minister in your churches or would like to speak to us we can be contacted on my parents phone 01798-81270 but avoid early afternoons when they rest, until I can replace my mobile phone. Please pray for us for the issues raised in this News and in the Spirit too.

Blessings from Milne Bay until our next

Guy & Colly



Some of the 2nd Intake at baptism and BCC graduation